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## Pauperism and Charities

*Die sozialökonomischen Grundlagen der englischen Armenpolitik im ersten Drittel des 19. Jahrhundert.* By JESSIE MARBURG.

(Karlsruhe: G. Braun'sche Hofbuchdruckerei und Verlag. 1912. Pp. 120. 2.40 m.)

Dr. Marburg confines attention to "the historical development of the principles of public poor relief in unity with economic theory and social views of a limited period," the first third of the nineteenth century. First, is reviewed certain earlier circumstances directly related to these later developments. The indefiniteness of legislation and consequent looseness of administration, the mercantilist theory of poverty, the doctrine of an abstract right to relief, the widespread acceptance of that doctrine in theory and in practice, and the attack on it by the classical economists, are all interestingly discussed. With the last topic the main subject is reached.

While all the cardinal doctrines of the classical school worked powerfully against any notion of abstract rights to relief, the Malthusian theory of population was particularly effective, because it was an induction from the economic and social conditions of the time. "The entire development of the twenty years seemed like an ocular demonstration of the Malthusian theory." The predominance of this philosophy, added to the pressure of taxation, led to a strong demand for the entire abolition of all systems of public support. The abandonment of this extreme position was as rapid as its rise. By 1830, effort was centered on a movement for positive reform. Certain parishes had introduced successful reorganization, thus pointing the way to reform and proving its efficiency. In addition, "it was a practical denial of the theory of overpopulation, and of the wage-fund theory." Legislators, mistrustful of the validity of accepted doctrines, turned to a consideration of actual conditions, and thus there was developed "an independent theory of poor relief which became the basis of reform." This new view was "based on the social responsibility of the community" for the advance of civilization. "A rational system of poor relief worked against overpopulation" by preventing hopeless poverty. Wages depended "on the grade of productivity of the laborer."

In developing his thesis the author has drawn copiously on the literature of the period. In the main his conclusions are well supported. That which is most likely to be questioned is his

interpretation of the theoretic basis of the great reform movement of the thirties. To many that movement is characterized by far-reaching modifications of the doctrines of the classical school, but not by an abandonment of their essentials. The "social responsibility of the community" was negative rather than positive, and was intended to prevent degeneracy rather than to promote advancement. Reform of the poor laws would result in social progress by increasing individual responsibility, not by decreasing it. Productivity affected *directly* the wages fund, not wages. Self-help was still regarded as fundamental. In theory, rigid individualism was still supreme.

It seems strange that such a comprehensive analysis of the views of this period should take no account of the doctrine of utilitarianism, which, by requiring that all theories be submitted to the test of actual conditions, influenced profoundly the viewpoint of the time. Nevertheless, Dr. Marburg's monograph is an able review of an interesting period in England's social development. Its style is clear, concise, and logical.

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#### NEW BOOKS

CROS-MAYREVIELLE, G. *Traité de l'assistance hospitalière*. Three volumes. (Paris: Berger-Levrault. 1913. Pp. 1829, illus. 36 fr.)

FOSSEYEUX, M. *Les grands travaux hospitaliers à Paris au dix-neuvième siècle*. (Paris: Berger-Levrault. 1913. Pp. 46. 1.50 fr.)

HILLS, J. W. and WOODS, M. *Poor law reform. A practical programme. The scheme of the Unionist social reform committee*. (London: King. 1913. Pp. 64. 1s.)

WEBER, A. *Les miséreux. Troisième partie: Essai sur le problème de la misère, l'aide sociale au nécessiteux adultes valides*. (Paris: Rivière. 1913. Pp. xi, 493. 5 m.)

————— *San Francisco relief survey*. (New York: Survey Associates, Inc. 1913. Pp. 510. \$3.50.)

#### Socialism and Co-operative Enterprises

*Socialism and Democracy in Europe*. By SAMUEL P. ORTH. (New York: Henry Holt and Company. 1913. Pp. iv, 352. \$1.50.)

*Applied Socialism. A Study of the Application of Socialistic*